

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously presented) A cervical facet resurfacing implant comprising:
a superior implant having an articulating surface and a fixation surface and configured for secured placement on a resurfaced superior articular facet of a selected cervical vertebra; and
an inferior implant having an articulating surface and a fixation surface and configured for secured placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra or occiput immediately above the selected cervical vertebra such that the articulating surface of the inferior implant interacts with the articular surface of the superior implant;
wherein at least one of the superior implant or the inferior implant comprises a tab extending from a lateral edge of the implant, and
wherein the tab has an aperture for receiving a fixation device.
2. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 1 wherein the superior implant and inferior implant are each generally disk-shaped.
3. Cancelled.
4. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 1 wherein the superior implant comprises a tab configured for attachment to the lateral mass of the selected cervical vertebra.
5. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 4 wherein the tab is configured for attachment to the lateral mass of the selected cervical vertebra with a screw.

6. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 4 wherein the tab extends from the remainder of the superior implant to form an angle of from about 110 degrees to about 160 degrees.

7. Cancelled.

8. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 1 wherein the inferior implant comprises a tab configured for attachment to the inferior articular process of the cervical vertebra or occiput immediately above the selected cervical vertebra.

9. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 8 wherein the tab is configured for attachment to the inferior articular process of the cervical vertebra or occiput immediately above the selected cervical vertebra with a screw.

10. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 8 wherein the tab extends from the remainder of the inferior implant to form an angle of from about 10 degrees to about 70 degrees.

11. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 1 wherein at least one of the superior implant or the inferior implant comprises a surface fixation mechanism.

12. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 11 wherein the surface fixation mechanism comprises at least one of: at least one peg, at least one pip, at least one fin, ridges, or at least one screw hole.

13. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 12 wherein the surface fixation mechanism comprises multiple regions and wherein each of the regions has multiple ridges oriented in a different direction than the other regions.

14. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 1 wherein the fixation surface of at least one of the inferior implant or the superior implant has at least one of: a porous coating, a porous onlay material, a biologic coating, a surface treatment, or a material facilitating ingrowth of bone.

15. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 1 wherein the articulating surface of at least one of the inferior implant or the superior implant is composed of at least one of: cobalt-chromium alloy, ceramic, UHMWPE, pyrolytic carbon, or Ti/Al/V.

16. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 1 wherein the inferior implant and superior implant each range from about 1 mm thick to about 6 mm thick.

17. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 1 wherein the inferior implant and superior implant each range from about 3 mm in diameter to about 14 mm in diameter.

18. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 1 further comprising a trans-lateral mass fixation mechanism for securing the inferior implant to the inferior articular facet.

19. (Previously presented) The facet implant of claim 18 wherein the trans-lateral mass fixation mechanism comprises at least one of: a screw, a bolt or a fixation pin.

20. (Previously presented) A facet implant comprising:

a generally disk-shaped superior implant having an articulating surface and a fixation surface and being configured for placement on a resurfaced superior articular facet of a selected cervical vertebra, the superior implant having a tab extending from a lateral edge of the generally disk-shaped portion of the superior implant, the tab having an aperture for receiving a fixation device for secured attachment to the lateral mass of the selected vertebra; and

a generally disk-shaped inferior implant having an articulating surface and a fixation surface and being configured for placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra or occiput immediately above the selected cervical vertebra such that the articulating surface of the inferior implant interacts with the articular surface of the superior implant, the inferior implant having a tab extending from a lateral edge of the generally disk-shaped portion of the inferior implant, the tab having an aperture for receiving a fixation device for secured attachment to the inferior articular process of the cervical vertebra immediately above the selected vertebra.

21. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 20 wherein at least one of the superior implant or the inferior implant comprises a surface fixation mechanism.

22. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 21 wherein the surface fixation mechanism comprises at least one of: at least one peg, at least one pip, at least one fin, ridges, or at least one screw hole.

23. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 20 wherein the fixation surface of at least one of the inferior implant or the superior implant has at least one of: a porous coating, a porous onlay material, a biologic coating, a surface treatment, or a material facilitating ingrowth of bone.

24. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 20 wherein the articulating surface of at least one of the inferior implant or the superior implant is composed of at least one of: cobalt-chromium alloy, ceramic, UHMWPE, pyrolytic carbon, or Ti/Al/V.

25-37. Cancelled.

38. (Currently amended) A cervical facet resurfacing implant comprising:

~~superior implant means for providing an artificial articulating surface on a superior articular facet of a selected cervical vertebra, the superior implant means being configured for following secured placement on a resurfaced superior articular facet of a~~ the selected cervical vertebra; and

~~inferior implant means for providing an artificial articulating surface on an inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra, the inferior implant means being configured for following secured placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra or occiput immediately above the selected cervical~~ vertebra;

wherein the means for providing an artificial articulating surface on a superior articular facet of a selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced superior articular facet of the selected cervical vertebra ~~superior implant means~~ and the means for providing an artificial articulating surface on an inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra ~~inferior implant means~~ are configured for articulating interaction.

39. (Currently amended) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 38 wherein the ~~superior implant means~~ means for providing an artificial articulating surface on

a superior articular facet of a selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced superior articular facet of the selected cervical vertebra and inferior implant means means for providing an artificial articulating surface on an inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra are each generally disk-shaped.

40. (Currently amended) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 38 wherein the ~~superior implant means~~ means for providing an artificial articulating surface on a superior articular facet of a selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced superior articular facet of the selected cervical vertebra comprises a tab configured for attachment to the lateral mass of the selected cervical vertebra.

41. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 40 wherein the tab is configured for attachment to the lateral mass of the selected cervical vertebra with a screw.

42. (Currently amended) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 40 wherein the tab extends from the remainder of the ~~superior implant means~~ means for providing an artificial articulating surface on a superior articular facet of a selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced superior articular facet of the selected cervical vertebra to form an angle of from about 110 degrees to about 160 degrees.

43. (Currently amended) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 38 wherein the ~~inferior implant means~~ means for providing an artificial articulating surface on an inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra comprises a tab configured for

attachment to the inferior articular process of the cervical vertebra ~~or occiput~~ immediately above the selected cervical vertebra.

44. (Currently amended) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 43 wherein the tab is configured for attachment to the inferior articular process of the cervical vertebra ~~or occiput~~ immediately above the selected cervical vertebra with a screw.

45. (Currently amended) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 43 wherein the tab extends from the remainder of the means for providing an artificial articulating surface on an inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra ~~inferior implant~~ to form an angle of from about 10 degrees to about 70 degrees.

46. (Currently amended) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 38 wherein at least one of the ~~superior implant means~~ means for providing an artificial articulating surface on a superior articular facet of a selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced superior articular facet of the selected cervical vertebra or the ~~inferior implant means~~ means for providing an artificial articulating surface on an inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra comprises a surface fixation mechanism.

47. (Previously presented) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 46 wherein the surface fixation mechanism comprises at least one of: at least one peg, at least one pip, at least one fin, ridges, or at least one screw hole.

48. (Currently amended) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 38 wherein at least one of the ~~superior implant means~~means for providing an artificial articulating surface on a superior articular facet of a selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced superior articular facet of the selected cervical vertebra or the ~~inferior implant means~~means for providing an artificial articulating surface on an inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra comprises a fixation surface having at least one of: a porous coating, a porous onlay material, a biologic coating, a surface treatment, or a material facilitating ingrowth of bone.

49. (Currently amended) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 38 wherein at least one of the ~~superior implant means~~means for providing an artificial articulating surface on a superior articular facet of a selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced superior articular facet of the selected cervical vertebra or the ~~inferior implant means~~means for providing an artificial articulating surface on an inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra comprises an articulating surface composed of at least one of: cobalt-chromium alloy, ceramic, UHMWPE, pyrolytic carbon, or Ti/Al/V.

50. (Currently amended) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 38 wherein the ~~inferior implant means~~means for providing an artificial articulating surface on a superior articular facet of a selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced superior articular facet of the selected cervical vertebra and the ~~superior implant means~~means for providing an artificial articulating surface on an inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra following secured

placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra each range from about 1 mm thick to about 6 mm thick.

51. (Currently amended) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 38 wherein the ~~inferior implant means~~ means for providing an artificial articulating surface on a superior articular facet of a selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced superior articular facet of the selected cervical vertebra –and the ~~superior implant means~~ means for providing an artificial articulating surface on an inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra each range from about 3 mm in diameter to about 14 mm in diameter.

52. (Currently amended) The cervical facet resurfacing implant of claim 38 further wherein the means for providing an artificial articulating surface on an inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra following secured placement on a resurfaced inferior articular facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra ~~comprising~~ comprises means for providing fixation ~~fixing the inferior implant to the inferior articulating facet of a cervical vertebra immediately above the selected cervical vertebra~~.

53. (Currently amended) The facet implant of claim 52 wherein the means for ~~fixing the inferior implant~~ providing fixation comprises at least one of: a screw, a bolt or a fixation pin.